



NIC names Omega top chapter nationally

The chapter received the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an individual fraternity on May 31, when it was announced as one of five Award of Distinction recipients.

The annual awards are presented by the North American Interfraternity Conference for up to five chapters “demonstrating excellence in operations, involvement in their fraternity/sorority and campus community and a commitment to a positive fraternity experience.” The NIC itself exists “to promote the shared interests and values of our member fraternities: Leadership, service, brotherhood and scholarship,” according to its website.

Pi Kappa Phi at Purdue, along with four other chapters nationally, was among the 6,000 fraternities eligible for the Award of Distinction from 800 campuses.

It means that the chapter is among the Top 1 percent of fraternity chapters in the nation.

In his nomination letter, **Brandon Cutler**, Purdue associate dean of students for fraternity, sorority and cooperative life, lauded the chapter’s commitment to service while maintaining high academic standards. Cutler has advised the campus Greek community for six years and wrote, “During that time, the Pi Kappa Phi chapter has consistently stood above its peers ... This recognition is due to Pi Kappa Phi’s outstanding commitment to humble leadership, stakeholder engagement and dedication to service and philanthropy.”

Cutler cited Pi Kappa Phi’s being named the top fraternity at Purdue the last two consecutive years and nine of the last 12. Furthermore, he pointed out that chapter members



have contributed more than \$290,000 toward philanthropic organizations and has ranked No. 1 in fund raising and community service hours. Furthermore, the chapter has consistently earned an average 3.1 GPA or higher and individual members hold a variety of leadership positions on campus.

“For at least 12 years, this chapter has performed at a level few Purdue fraternities ever reach,” he wrote in the nomination letter. “The chapter consistently boasts data, statistics and chapter performance that sets it apart from its peers, but that is only part of the story.”

“The Purdue Pi Kappas are one of the most engaged fraternities I have ever worked with ... They are invested in the lives of young people and generally care about the right things ... While we hope most chapters are playing checkers, they are playing chess at a high level.”

Cutler also wrote, “They have sustained a level of performance that challenges every norm and trend in the fraternal industry and have done so with a sense of humility.”

Statistics bear out the accolades Cutler cites.

In Purdue’s statistics available at nomination time, Pi Kappa Phi was No. 1 in service hours – nearly three times the runners-up; No. 1 in philanthropic dollars raised – more than 2.5 times the second best; No. 3 in membership; and No. 4 in GPA. Purdue has 43 fraternities.

Academically, 10 members had 4.0 GPAs, 58 were on the dean’s list or earned semester honors and 101 had at least a 3.0. That’s from a chapter boasting 155 members in the Fall 2018 semester.

In his letter supporting the chapter’s nomination, Pi Kappa Phi CEO **Mark Timmes** cited three specific areas in which the chapter excels. They include: Campus & national leadership, commitment to service and campus & national recognition.

“Both collectively and individually, the student members of the chapter continue to distinguish themselves at the local and national level by providing an uncommon fraternity experience grounded in community involvement and servant leadership,” Timmes wrote.

Continued on Page 2

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The print Omegalite is published at least once a year by the Omega of Pi Kappa Phi Housing Corporation for its alumni. Address corrections should be mailed to us at the contact information listed at the top of this box. E-Omegalite, an electronic edition is published quarterly via email.

Continued from Page 1

He noted that 2018 archon (president) **Nathan Longo** is the 2019 Purdue Interfraternity Council president and serves on the Council of Archons for Pi Kappa Phi, a group of 12 undergraduate members from across the country who advise the national council and national staff. He also cited chapter member leadership in the freshmen orientation program, dance marathon and Old Masters' programs.

In terms of service, Timmes wrote that the chapter excels in fund-raising and service including volunteering in a local high school's special needs classes and high-level participation in national events. Those national events include the Journey of Hope, a national cross-county cycling trip that has included more than 80 chapter members over the years, including six in 2019. And Timmes listed the litany of awards the chapter has won locally and nationally in the last several years.

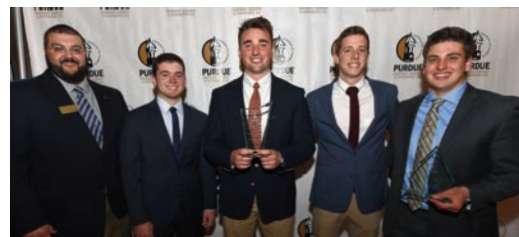
"While statistics and accolades never tell the full story of any organization, I hope these highlights begin to depict just how exceptional our men at Purdue truly are," Timmes wrote. "This is a chapter of students who understand fraternity and what it means to live the values we all espouse on a daily basis."

Chapter advisor **Pat Kuhnle** gave a more personal perspective as to why the chapter should have been considered for the NIC award.

"Nearly every Greek organization does some sort of philanthropic outreach, but I doubt none as earnestly as this chapter," he wrote. He said every chapter member participates regularly in service events – "that's correct, 100 percent participate consistently and regularly."



Nathan Longo, 2018 archon, was named Purdue's top fraternity president.



Brandon Cutler (left), Purdue associate dean of students, poses with chapter members after announcing Omega as the 2019 RB Stewart Award, signifying it as the campus top fraternity in 2019. It was the second straight for the chapter and ninth of the last 12. Purdue has 41 fraternities.

Furthermore, he boasts that all chapter events during the academic year were created by chapter members as undergraduates. That includes the David Feltner 72-Hour Memorial Bike a Thon, Arctoberfest, War of Roses, Pi Kapp 100, Special Needs Prom and Lafayette Jefferson High School volunteering. And then there is the chapter's commitment to service on the national level, including 82 riders or crew all-time in Journey of Hope, 10 all-time on Gear Up Florida and 15 in the spring semester who assisted at a regional special needs camp.

Kuhnle wrote that the chapter members are quite selective during the fall and spring recruitment periods that typically see nearly half all those going through the process visiting Pi Kappa Phi during the process.

He said the Top 3 priorities chapter members seek during recruitment are academics, service and leadership. That set of priorities when looking for new members helps Pi Kappa Phi sustain its superiority year after year.

- The Purdue Interfraternity Council was given the 2019 Council of Distinction Award, too. That recognition comes from a campus where the IFC operates in full compliance with NIC standards and works to maintain an environment conducive to success of the member chapters on their campus. Pi Kappa Phi's **Nathan Longo** is the 2019 Purdue IFC president.

A listing of the 2019 NIC Award of Distinction winners can be found here:

<https://nicfraternity.org/chapter-award-of-distinction/>

Chapter alumnus becomes West Lafayette police chief

He never planned to be chief, it just kinda happened that way.

Troy Harris (Omega 1375), some 25 years removed from his days as an undergraduate, recently celebrated his first six months as the West Lafayette police chief.

Harris moved steadily up the ranks in the force. He was a patrol officer, a detective, a supervisor of detectives and deputy chief prior to being appointed chief in February 2019.

"I've never been that kind of guy who worked just to get promoted," he said. "That was never important to me. The important thing was trying to do the best that I can at any job that you were doing at the time."

"I never had any aspirations of being a chief, honestly. There's not one time in my career that I've said, 'I want to be a chief someday.' I just don't operate like that. I just focused on the task at hand."

As chief, he manages nearly 50 sworn officers and works for **Mayor John Dennis**, who himself was a police officer in Lafayette for nearly 25 years prior to taking over the city in 2008.

With his new chief, Dennis saw not only experience, but a characteristic not always seen in policing.

"First word would be compassion," Dennis said. "In order to be an effective leader you need to possess the institutional knowledge to do the job. But in Troy's case not only is he a master at doing the job, he has the ability to empathize with the people he leads. He's kind, he's smart, he's experienced, and he cares."

Prior to becoming the top policing administrator in his college town, Harris worked in all three areas of the police department – patrol, investigations and special services.

"I am the kind of guy who likes to have my hand in it to be part of it," Harris said. "We've all worked for that boss who you think 'He



doesn't even know what I do' or 'He doesn't know how to do this.' I don't want to ever be perceived as 'that guy.' One thing that I take a lot of pride in is having been a supervisor in every division of our agency prior to getting here, which I think gives me a great understanding of how to manage an agency."

As a chief, he can't do it all, and being chief moves him in lots of areas other than policing.

"The biggest difference is being pulled in so many different directions," Harris said. "The biggest challenge for me is to be able to take a step back and just let the staff do their thing with the direction that they are given. I still like to be involved in too many things and it really slows me down – that's the biggest obstacle that I face."

Harris, a Huntington, Indiana, native and the product of a single mom household, said his undergraduate fraternity experience helped him during his career.

"Being able to live with that many different people that come from so many different backgrounds, so many different personalities, it helps you not just in policing, but life in general," he said. "To be able to get along with people from all walks of life, to be tolerant, to have patience, to form relationships, to follow rules and then to make that transition to police work, I think it's important because you lived a life and you have some experiences, not just as a college student, but as a fraternity member and then you are out there policing those people. So, it really gives you some insight."

Dennis, for his part, likes what he sees in Harris' first six months in charge.

"He is reviewing and strengthening our current programs internally and externally," Dennis said. "He is also strategically looking at the future to continue the good work of supporting the citizens of West Lafayette."

Changing culture becomes challenge for IFC president

Adapting a culture to a new set of norms can be difficult, particularly within a well-established Greek system at Purdue.

But Omega's **Nathan Longo** (Omega 2042) is attempting to do just that as his role as 2019 Interfraternity Council president. Now, a bit more than halfway through his term, Longo sees some changes and wants more.

Starting his term in the spring semester, he had three main priorities: Improving implementation of health and safety policies, expanding the way Purdue fraternities approach recruitment, and fostering a culture of leadership in several areas within our community, he said in January.

He cites IFC being honored by the National Interfraternity Conference as its 2019 Award of Distinction winner as an indicator of advancement. While the NIC can pick others to share in the award, it selected only Purdue this year.

"We are extremely proud of the accomplishment, and it is a nice capstone to all of the hard work that so many leaders from the Purdue fraternity community have done to help us grow," he said.

The council is made up of five executive board members, six directors, five associate board members as well as the President's Council, which is all the chapter presidents.

Specifically, Longo said strides have been made in the council's operations and effectiveness, improving fall recruitment as well as addressing health and safety issues in the 43 chapters.

"I have received many comments from chapter leadership on how IFC has improved its operations and communication," he said. Furthermore, he said, recruitment efforts have seen "tens of thousands of impressions on social media." On the health and safety front – aka "risk management" – he said there have been more chapters who have made the call "for someone in need of medical attention" that has helped avoid crises.

"Although the number of policy violation incidents has not seen a change, these incidents are often lesser in nature and are focused more on sustaining our community for the future, which is a win in my book," he said.

One of his initiatives going into the fall semester was holding a "town hall" type meeting for new students to hear the benefits of the Greek community prior to the fall's Meet the Greeks event. Meet the Greeks is held on the Memorial Mall and Greeks and cooperatives have booths whereby prospective members can visit as many chapters as they wish.

He has worked to engage chapter leadership "in thoughtful conversation on how our community can improve."



Nathan Longo, Interfraternity Council president

Change can be difficult when each "franchise" has its own leadership that is not under direct supervision by IFC.

"I definitely think right now that I have had the most influence in improving the general culture of leadership by both improving the operations of IFC as the community leader and by promoting the voices of every chapter in our 43-organization community," he said.

Longo was Omega's archon in 2018. He anticipated having an IFC executive assistant's role in 2019, not the top guy. His chapter brothers, the outgoing IFC leadership and some fellow fraternity presidents encouraged him to take the job.

"Nathan has had tremendous leadership experiences within Purdue's fraternity, sorority and cooperative life community that have prepared him to succeed in the role of IFC president," **Brandon Cutler**, associate dean of students, said in January. "He understands the system, processes, community and the importance of building collaborative relationships."

Longo, a Columbus, Ohio, area native majoring in electrical engineering, will become Pi Kappa Phi's first IFC president in more than a decade. **Steve Holtsclaw** (Omega 1666) held the position in 2007.

"It's difficult to put into words just how much Pi Kappa Phi and IFC prepared me for my professional career, as so much stems from my experience in these groups," Holtsclaw said. "As an example, I was terrified of public speaking when I became IFC president and that fear disappeared pretty quickly given how many times I was asked to be the face and spokesman."

Holtsclaw has used his finance undergraduate degree, alongside a Northwestern University MBA, to assist clinical drug trials for Eli Lilly, an Indianapolis-based international pharmaceutical company. As such, he oversees data analysis to inform future domestic and international drug trials.

National motivational speaker addresses moms at banquet

TJ Sullivan, a renowned speaker at college campuses and Pi Kapp alumnus from Indiana University, addressed a crowd of nearly 300 at Moms Day 2019. The banquet was March 30 in a hall in Ross-Ade Stadium. It looked out over the field covered by a late spring snow. Here are some excerpts.

I try to go to a Pi Kappa Phi thing every year. I just want to keep in touch and see what's going on and see the students. My first love for this fraternity is what it does for young men. I want to thank you all for having me here. For the love that you showed today is really fantastic. For the brothers of the Omega chapter, thank you for being so incredible.

I see Pi Kapps all over the country. I go to about 50 or 60 schools a year and I just don't meet that many chapters that are this amazing. I want to thank you for being a class act.

To all the parents, thank you. I want to make sure you hear that very clearly – thank you for investing in your children. I'm a dad too. I have a 25-year-old son and a 16-year-old son and I know we invest so much in them, so much hope and so much care. So, I want to thank you for everything, for being here, for making the trip – some of you came further than others. Thank you for making this a priority for your kids. Thank you for investing in their education. I know a lot of you had to make sacrifices to send your sons here. That live auction was just a hoot. You all are just funny.

Last night we were at a family's house down in Zionsville. You really get a sense that moms and dads really provide that home base – a place where they feel safe when they are in the tumultuous parts of their lives.

I am an IU grad. I was a founding father at Pi Kappa Phi there. Here's the funny thing – Purdue has been better to me than Indiana has ever been. I have probably spoken at Purdue a dozen times over the years,



but I did have this moment at IU hired me a couple of years ago and I did the math and realized that IU had paid me more than I had paid them. That was a very cool moment.

We're here tonight to celebrate the bonds of family. There's two kinds of families, right? There's the family of origin, you are the ones who built them to who they are today. But then there's the family of choice, and those closer to my age know what I am talking about.

There are people in your lives that you choose to make your special family, that you choose to bring into your lives. That's the fraternity brothers, the girlfriends, the boyfriends, the other friends, the mentors. I am the father of two boys adopted from foster care. I want to acknowledge that there are some men in this chapter who are not closely tied to their families of origin. We need to give them love, too. These families of choice are very, very important to them, too.

It's really wonderful when we have events like this where we all get to be together, we all get to show affection for each other in a common sense of belonging. That's really very powerful. I was one of those men. I went to Indiana University from a very messed up family situation. My father was out of the picture and it was that family of choice that I found at IU and through Pi Kappa Phi, quite accidentally. I joined at the very last minute at the end of my

junior year. I thought fraternity men were the biggest jerks in the world and I loved it, I loved it. I never thought I could be that close to a group of people. It was such an incredible experience.

That family of choice – Pi Kappa Phi – shaped me into the man I am today. It's the reason when I get invited to something like this that I go, 'yes, yes, absolutely yes.' I know that your sons are getting shaped right now. It's such an honor to be part of that.

To the incredible moms in the room – much love to you. We celebrate you, we share food and drink, we celebrate your contribution to these men and this organization for making memories.

When I am invited to events like this I'm usually invited so I can fill in some context for this whole national fraternity thing. I'm someone who can celebrate the greatness of Omega, but I also see the big picture. I get to visit all over the country with Pi Kapps. I've been involved for 30 years, and I did all the conventions, and when I walk into Supreme Chapter, which is what we call our convention, I have all the ribbons. I've done it all in the fraternity.

I worked for The Ability Experience for a while and I helped get a lot of the programs started right out of college. I have some context that I can give you. I help you

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understand how all this wonderful energy in this room and around Omega is part of something much larger than what we have here tonight.

If you'll indulge me, I would like to give you two gifts. For the moms and dads, I'd like to give you the answer to "why is your son in a fraternity" because I know you get that. I'm going to give you gift of the greatest lesson I've ever learned in Pi Kappa Phi.

First, the gift to the parents. Why is your son in a fraternity? There are only two things you need to say – he's finding his family of choice and he's learning how to give.

I wrote the "White Diamond." The White Diamond is the book that these young men study as they become members of the fraternity. I wrote the first one in 1991 when I was 22 years old. I spent a year traveling and learning about the fraternity and I gathered so much information. I couldn't put it all in the book, right? Some of it is awkward. I learned some pretty crazy stuff. Our fraternity was founded because one guy really got pissed off. The College of Charleston is the oldest municipal college in the country. What that means is that it's owned by the city. It's not a state school and it's not a religious school. At the turn of the century most schools were large state schools or they were religious schools. And the kids who would go to a municipal college, like at the College of Charleston were a specific set of students. There were about 200 students at the school – all men at that

time – they tended to be the smart, but not religious and not from wealthy families. It was kinda like a working class, middle class type of place to go to school. Andrew Alexander Kroeg Jr., who all the men know was one of the three founders, was a very intense dude. He was very ambitious. He was very, very hungry. By the way, he pledged Kappa Sigma fraternity and got thrown out. He was very pissed off and didn't like fraternities. At the College of Charleston, the only guys who got elected to student government were members of fraternities. And once he was thrown out of Kappa Sigma he knew he would never, ever be elected to student government. So, he decided to protest this, he would show how ridiculous fraternities were and he decided he was going to start a group that was known as Nu Phi for non-fraternity. He had two really good best friends, Harry Mixon, who was this really serious guy – studious, scholar, a guy who you'd think of as an accountant, a very sober-minded young man. And then there was Simon Fogerty, he was the crazy one. The things that I learned about Simon should not be repeated. They started this thing for their own benefit. As much as that's not a glorious thing to put in a book, they were pretty selfish reasons they started this fraternity. They wanted access to the power. They wanted to have influence, status.

They brought in some of their other friends to do this and it started to change for them. They were having a really good time and they got the attention they liked. Starting a new fraternity really disrupted things at this small college of 200 students. There were three fraternities and now there's this fourth one. Nu Phi became Pi Kappa Phi and Kroeg had a chance to be president of something – and that's what he wanted. It gave them a place to pour their energy; it

made them feel better. They were finding their family of choice, just like your sons are.

Through Pi Kappa Phi these guys at this small municipal school in Charleston, they learned how to give it away. 115 years later we are still doing it. Young men are coming to this place, to Purdue, to this chapter, and they desperately need connection. This is how it happens. They come in, they want to find a place where they matter, where they can access the things like status and access to women, let's be honest. Or maybe a place to party or whatever it is. Most men come to Pi Kappa Phi for pretty selfish reasons. But then they learn to give it away.

The best things in our fraternities sometimes starts from selfish places, but they learn to create something really incredible.

Now, for my Pi Kappa Phi brothers, I'm going to give you your gift. The biggest thing I've learned in my journey of 30 years. Fraternity only matters when you learn to give it away and to do it from a place of love. I know you've seen it. It's that moment when it stops being about you and starts being about somebody else. When your little brother gets initiated. Or when you mom comes and says 'Oh, I like your brothers.' When you get something like this and you give it away, it becomes remarkable.

Gentlemen in the room: I think you know there are two types of men in the fraternity. There are those who do it for themselves, and there's those who give it away.

The reason I am here tonight is Omega is a place where giving fraternity away is taught. It's taught here. Men cannot become part of this chapter and not learn that. Thank you for providing that. To the parents, thank you for providing the role models that allow these beautiful men to come here and do this. They are building their family of choice. They are making bonds that will last them forever and they are becoming better men. And when fraternity does that, it's pretty remarkable.



Pi Kapp 100 team that arrived on Moms Day

Homecoming '19 information

The chapter members will host Pi Kapp alumni at the annual homecoming football game on **Saturday, Oct. 12.**

The Boilermakers will host Maryland at noon.

Oct. 12, will also mark the end of the 2019 Abilities Week for the chapter. Fraternity members will conduct various activities near the Purdue belltower all week long raising awareness and funds for The Ability Experience, the national fraternity's outreach project to assist people with disabilities.

Homecoming Saturday will also see the 5 p.m. conclusion of the Ninth Annual David Feltner Memorial Bike-a-Thon after the football game. There will be a reception with comments in the Great Hall of the chapter house following the completion. Alumni are encouraged to attend and show their support for the undergraduates.

The homecoming schedule includes:

- **9 to 11:30 a.m. Open house.**

Coffee and donuts will be served in the basement dining room.

- **10:30 to 11:30 a.m.. Lunch** available in basement dining room for alumni and their guests.

- **11:30 a.m. leave** for Ross-Ade Stadium.

- **Noon Purdue-Maryland** football game.

- **4:30 p.m.** Move to belltower for completion of Bike A Thon. We hope to be streaming live on the chapter's Facebook account.

- **5 p.m.** completion of Bike A Thon at belltower with group photo

- **5:45 p.m.** gather in Great Hall for comments from Ability Experience chairman, archon.

Those interested in contacting the chapter historian Jack Sautter, historian@purduepiapps.com, 765/714-3922. Those who want to reach archon Eric Cave can reach him at archon@purduepiapps.com, 770/663-7782

The schedule of events related to the Abilities Week includes:

- **Pie a Pi Kapp** whereby passers-by can smear a "pie" made up of ingredients selected by the donor in the face of



Andy Schiel, Mike Lolkus and TJ Tomasik complete the final five minutes of the Eighth Annual David Feltner 72-Hour Memorial Bike-a-Thon in 2018 in the shadows of the Purdue belltower. The event, in memory of Feltner who died of cancer in 2011, raises money for the chapter's annual Ability Experience efforts. Schiel, Lolkus and Tomasik were in the chapter when Feltner was an undergraduate.

a fraternity member. Date and location TBA.

- **Snow Cone Stand.** Folks can buy snow cones of their favorite flavor. (Depending on the availability of supplies and power, this event may be moved to the front lawn of the fraternity house, 330 N. Grant St.). Date(s) TBA.

- **Ninth Annual Feltner Bike-a-Thon** will occur. The event features two or more stationary bike riders continuously for 72 hours. Riders commit to raising at least \$10 per hour while riding. Spectators will also be able to donate funds at the site. The event will run from 5 p.m., Oct. 9 to 5 p.m., Oct. 12 at the Purdue belltower.

Alumni wishing to ride in the Bike a Thon, or financially support the effort should contact Ability Experience chairman **Campbell Boston** (Omega 2127) at campbellboston1@gmail.com, 847-542-9595.

2018 Homecoming attendance

Sept. 22, 2018

769 Jay Hackelman
1061 Todd Anthony
1077 J. Steven Bohner
1139 Marc Zubeck
1160 Bob Finnerty
1164 Dan Witherspoon
1165 Jim Bereda
1179 Carl Gerlach
1197 Pat Kuhnle

1210 Rich Prestholt
1221 Chris Carrier
1265 Brent Buroker
1692 Donovan Higgins
1732 Andy Scheil
1735 TJ Tomasik
1736 Mike Lolkus
1761 Nick Prichodko
1768 Kevin Albrecht
1856 Nolan Xahn
1870 Tom Jones
1882 Brenden Hulett
1911 Kyle James
1936 Danny Kennedy
1937 John McLaughlin
1942 Alex Mills
1945 Tyler Prestholt
1946 Ryan Schmierer
1948 Ambrose Haas
1953 Chris Beck
1958 Brandon Tran
1965 Greg Bandy
1966 Matt Nordland
1972 Mark Fisher
1984 Ryan Stephens
1986 Nick Hnatusko
1987 Cooper Nigh
1962 Jake Martin
1989 Spencer Suski
1993 Brian Rice
1994 Bailey Walton
1995 Ian McLuckey
2000 Austin Schroeder
2016 Richard Galat
2019 Mahir Prasad
2037 Hunter Day

Mom tells chapter members her fears for son

Michelle Longo, mom of undergraduate chapter member Nathan, addressed the Moms Day crowd on March 30. Here are excerpts from her comments.

In the summer of 2016 I was sending my first born off to college. I was thinking, 'How terrifying is this?' I had someone introduce to me this really great book that I should read and it would help me prepare. You'll love this title, maybe some of you have seen it before, "The Naked Roommate: And 107 Other Issues You Might Run Into in College." I promptly bought it for him and I'm sure he's never read a single page. I got the parents-only version and it's really good. I started reading it and started tagging pages and underlining things and forcing him into conversations he didn't want to have. We had a great summer preparing for him to leave.

It was really interesting as I went through the book, I got to Chapter 14 that says, "Greek Life." It was the good, the bad and the ugly of fraternity and sorority life, and I flipped right on past it and I didn't read the chapter. I read every other page of the book.

So, he gets to college, "Mom, it's not a scary place, there's a cornfield on one side, there's a river on the other and I'm pretty sure I'm going to be fine." So, I started to chill out. Then he calls me a week later and says, "By the way, I'm going to pledge a fraternity."

'Oh, my gosh. Quick get the book, I've got to read Chapter 14.' I had no idea what to do. It was worse because my mom laughed at me hysterically. I said, 'Why are you mocking me here?' She reminded me that my husband had been in a fraternity and some of his best memories, all of his friends as an adult, were from those years. So why wouldn't your son want to follow in his dad's footsteps? And it dawned on me that I was having a "duh" moment.

I look back now, three years later, and he's held a number of leadership



Michelle Longo holds up the book, "The Naked Roommate: And 107 Other Issues You Might Run Into in College."

positions that have been a gift from his fraternity. You heard that he's currently working with the Interfraternity Council and he was his pledge class president, secretary and last year was president.

Pat (Kuhnle) asked me when there was an article written in December about the IFC job (for the e-Omegalite and chapter website), I got to put a few words in the article. So, I thought those would be insightful. His dad's comments went first. My husband, Greg, was a fraternity member in college and was very supportive of his son joining a fraternity. His mom, me, not so much. The news headlines seemed to be skewed toward the negative, and a mom's radar is always on full alert.

Now, who are my freshmen moms and dads in the room, raise your hands. OK. Are you with me here? Moms radar, right? I was a little skeptical to say the least. I eventually warmed to the idea, but I really didn't know anything about Pi Kappa Phi. So, Nathan shared a lot of statistics – he's the math man – so he shared a lot of statistics about their esteemed position on campus, but more importantly he was talking about his gut feeling about the people he was meeting as he was going through recruitment and indoctrination. I guess we had to trust his judgment.

We later learned in our lives the many people who were Pi Kappa Phis. Who knew? Each year we have learned more and more and I am just overwhelmingly proud of him at this

point.

Moms Day weekend 2017 came I arrived here just like all of you that are freshmen moms and dads and I watched my son who is not an avid biker cross the line after the 100-K ride. He put his arm around my shoulder all day introducing me to some of the nicest people I've ever met. I kept thinking, 'This is really cool, he's never put his arm around my shoulder.' And I heard a mom just like me standing here (at the podium at Moms Day), I gotta tell you it sealed the deal for me. I spent the day and really enjoyed myself and met such great people. So, some of you I get to see for the third time now.

But I can tell you it's never been without worry. In Nathan's roles in leadership, I will often send him these little notes that I read and they are all these tough things in the news. Recently, I sent one that was a parent's perspective. There was a boy from Ohio who was from our hometown who passed away on his campus last fall as a freshman. The story as it unfolded is that there were some appalling things that were happening in that chapter. It gave me pause, but here's the thing: It promoted a conversation. I sent it on to Nate and here's our conversation. He said, "Wow, this is really tough to hear, Mom. It kinda makes me sick."

And I hope it's not going on at this campus, either. My response to him is that 'I hope your work keeps it from happening at Purdue. Your job (as IFC president) is important.'

Guys in this room, your job is important, too. In fact, it's life or death sometimes.

This group of men laugh together and you keep each other honest. You hold each other accountable. You raise funds like nobody else for people who really need it. You are becoming men together and I could not be more privileged than to spend some time with you getting the chance to talk about my experiences. Thank you.

Chapter statistics

Pi Kappa Phi prides itself in being the top philanthropic fraternity at Purdue while achieving academically and being leaders on campus.

Here are some statistics from the last two semesters showing how we rank (most recently available statistics from Purdue):

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- No. 4 (of 41) at 3.18, Fall 2018
- No. 9 (out of 42) at 3.14, Spring 2019
- Spring 2019: 6-4.0s, 3.9 percent; 109-3.0s or higher, 71.2 percent

MEMBERSHIP

- No. 3 (tie) with 155 members, Fall 2018
- No. 2 with 165 members, Spring 2019

PHILANTHROPY DOLLARS RAISED

- No. 1 with \$84,828, Fall 2018 (includes JOH fund-raising)
- No. 6 with \$7,120, Spring 2019

SERVICE HOURS

- No. 1, with 6,943, Fall 2018
- No. 17 with 518, Spring 2019

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT/LEADERSHIP

- Top leadership positions in Interfraternity Council, Purdue University Dance Marathon, Old Masters and more

- Each member is expected to be involved in at least 1 campus organization or honorary

ACHIEVEMENT

- RB Stewart Award, given as Purdue's top fraternity:

2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2018, 2019

- The most recognized fraternity at Purdue in history
- 2019 Award of Distinction, 1 of 5 nationally out of more than 6,000 fraternity chapters on 800+ campuses nationwide, North American Interfraternity Conference “demonstrating excellence in operations, involvement in their fraternity and campus community and commitment to a positive fraternity experience.”

INITIATES

- The Omega chapter has initiated 2,156 men, third most of any Pi Kappa Phi chapter.

MORE INFORMATION:

- purduepikapps.org
- facebook.com/pikapps.omega/
- instagram.com/purduepikapps/
- twitter.com/Omega_PiKapps



“Pie a Pi Kapp” event raising money for the Purdue University Dance Marathon.

Members help camp

The Purdue chapter provided the vast majority of the construction manpower needed for camp assisting people with special needs the weekend of April 5-7 in a nearby state.

Omega sent 14 of the 26 members of Pi Kappa Phi members to Camp Big Sky in Fairview, Illinois. The other chapters represented were from Western Illinois and DePaul. The project was coordinated by the Ability Experience (abilityexperience.org), the national fraternity's national outreach program.

The group completed a wheelchair accessible ramp that was begun by Build America, the national fraternity's summer service project throughout the United States. The fraternity volunteers also stained the house at the campsite, replaced insulation in one of the cabins and

replaced wooden planks on a dock.

Furthermore, on behalf of The Ability Experience, the men presented an unrestricted \$5,000 gift to further the needs of the facility.

Camp Big Sky (campbigsky.org), which is about 160 miles from the Purdue campus, provides education, training and skill development for children and adults with various disabilities through various outdoor activities, according to its website.

“What a great weekend with The Ability Experience Team,” the camp's Facebook page said. “Pi Kappa Phi fraternity brothers from DePaul, Purdue and Western Illinois universities ascended on Camp Big Sky to work on many projects to help get the camp ready for our 16th season. A fun, hard-working, patient and respectful group of young men. We can't thank

them enough for all their hard work!”

The Purdue chapter sent the following members: Justus Schumann, Campbell Boston, Seth Cantrell, Jack Kellison, Michael Bailey, Andrew Beering, Ryan Patout, Tom Hirschfeld, Nate Longo, Jack Cleary, Luke Oldford, Drew Thieme, Marcus Perkins and Jacob Moeller.



Chapter members at Camp Big Sky in Fairview, Illinois.

Alumni donate nearly \$10,000 to support Omegalite, chapter

Annual donations to the Omega of Pi Kappa Phi Housing Corporation and chapter approached \$10,000 in 2018.

The corporation and chapter received 60 donations for \$9,412.09 last year. The majority of that money – \$4,470 – was non-designated, while the second highest category of giving was to the Chapter Investment Fund (CIF) with \$2,976.09. The CIF donations are tax-deductible and help support the educational needs of the chapter such as conference and tutor fees. That fund is held by the Pi Kappa Phi Foundation and are collected by the local housing corporation.

Other donations have been earmarked to the award-winning Omegalite publication (\$370), building fund (\$195) and the chapter's annual Ability Experience fundraising efforts (\$1,155.20).

Thus far in 2019, \$6,994 has been raised by the chapter for the Ability Experience. Alumni can make tax deductible donations directly to AbEx online at:

<https://www.classy.org/team/149705>

or by sending to the housing corporation and we will forward. The advantage to sending to housing corporation is that we can keep track of such better and report your donation in an upcoming Omegalite.

The housing corporation receives operational funds in two ways – through rent charged to the undergraduate chapter and alumni donations. Those funds are used to pay for chapter house maintenance, summer improvements, alumni communication and liability insurance (now at more than \$200 per member). Donations completely fund the Omegalite, which costs roughly \$2,000 to print and mail.

A total of 43 ballots were received for the housing corporation officer slate for 2019 of Jay Seeger for president, Matt Clark for vice pres-

ident, Steve Bohner for treasurer and Pat Kuhnle for secretary.

A ballot for officers for the 2019-20 year is included in this mailing.

The building fund stands at \$283,624. The building fund receives its money from alumni donations as well as half of what used to be mortgage payments. The other half of the mortgage payments is available for summer improvement projects.

Alumni interested in learning more about establishing bequests or major gifts to the chapter, should contact corporation president Jay Seeger.

The 2018 donations included:

\$10,000 or more

None

\$2,500 to \$9,999

None

\$1,000-\$2,499

1506 Phil Leslie

\$500 to \$999

722 Jack Berlien

919 Richard Price

919 Richard Price

1180 Don Porth

1197 Pat Kuhnle

1457 Peter Todd

\$250 to \$499

448 W Kelley Carr

1390 Jeff Lampe

1461 Kevin Johnson

\$100 to \$249

360 John Gumper

492 David Johnson

506 James Jackson

517 Robert Wingard

528 Lawrence Hines

947 Mark DeFabis

540 William Hounshell

688 JM Eberhart

706 Gerald Buente

740 John McDonald

769 Jay Hackleman

819 Jim Berlien

852 Kim Tubergen

858 Bernard Platt

951 Greg Linder

1354 Scott Patton

1034 Tom Miller

1017 Bruce Halley

1119 Rick Bonar

1168 Matt Stuve

1251 Dan Coppersmith

1262 Mark Nigh

1277 Pat Lyons

1367 Matt Bouma

1405 Jim Taller

1436 Tom Bentley

1450 Andy Parker

1634 Zach Isbell

1692 Donovan Higgins

1776 Eric Strohacker

1769 Dong Lim

\$50 to \$99

620 John Pop

636 Fred Lyijynen

813 Glenn Manich

827 Phillip Newhouse

862 RM Little

882 Sonny O'Drobinak

942 George Quisno

970 David Sterenfeld

1056 James Conti

1176 Douglas Davis

1208 Manish Gandhi

1454 Brent Grunig

1610 Nick Beach

\$25 to \$49

588 Hilton Henry

613 Donald Katter

1892 Daniel Heinekamp

Xi Durward Owen

Corporation officers

Your 2020 ballot for housing corporation officers is included in this mailing. Long-time president **Jay Seeger** (Omega 897) is stepping away from the leadership position, but remaining on the corporation board. Over the years, he has been president on and off for more than 30 years. A Lafayette attorney, Seeger recently closed his practice, but continues to work part time specializing in elder care.

Matt Clark (Omega 1583), most recently vice president, is available to step up to president while **Michael Schmierer** (Omega 1833) can serve as the new vice president.